

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Figs. 1 and 8A-C are amended, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are amended, claims 2, 5 and 7-12 are canceled and new claims 13 and 14 are added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 13-14 are pending in the application.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indication that claims 2-3 contain allowable subject matter.

The Office Action objects to Figs. 1 and 8A-C based upon informalities. Fig. 1 and Figs. 8A-C are amended to obviate the objection. Specifically, Fig. 1 has been designated by the legend, "Prior Art," and Figs. 8A-C have been amended to include the reference numeral "91" as noted by the Examiner. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action objects to the specification, asserting that the term "CV value" is not clearly defined. Applicants' respectfully disagree, but submit that the objection is moot in view of cancellation of the claims reciting the "CV value." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 5 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to clearly define the limitation "CV value." As noted above, cancellation of claims 5 and 10-12 renders this rejection moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent No. JP08-248668 to Yamazaki et al. In addition, the Office Action rejects claims 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Japanese Patent No. JP10-307464 to Ito et al.

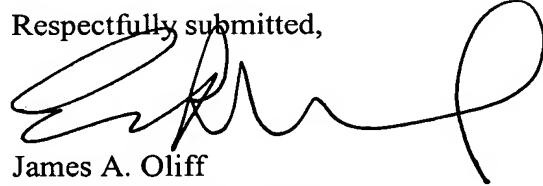
Claim 1 is rewritten to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claim 2 and is therefore allowable. Claims 4 and 6 are allowable at least in view of the patentability of claim 1 from which they now depend, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Cancellation of claims 7-9 renders the rejection of these claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 6 and 13-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:ERM/aaw

Attachments:
Replacement Drawing Sheets

Date: January 10, 2005

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheets make changes to Figs. 1 and 8A-8C and replace the original sheets with Figs. 1 and 8A-8C.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets